

Claims

1. An intra-vaginal self-administered cell collecting device comprising:
 - an intra-vaginal insertion member;
 - a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;
 - means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;
 - textured porous means covering the absorbent member for:
 - retaining the shape of the absorbent member;
 - capturing cells residing in vaginal fluids; and
 - passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
 - means for retrieving the absorbent member.
2. The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the textured cover is a mesh sleeve covering the absorbent member.
3. The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the textured cover is molded onto the absorbent member.
4. The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the textured cover is a molded portion of the absorbent member.
5. The device as defined in claim 1 wherein the textured cover is a coating applied to the absorbent member.

6. A kit for self-administered intra-vaginal cell collection comprising:
 - a container including:
 - an intra-vaginal insertion member;
 - a shaped absorbent member removably mounted in the insertion member;
 - means for expelling the absorbent member from the insertion member;
 - textured porous means covering the absorbent member for:
 - retaining the shape of the absorbent member;
 - capturing cells residing in vaginal fluids; and
 - passing the cells to the absorbent member; and
 - means for retrieving the absorbent member.
7. The kit as defined in claim 6 further comprising:
 - a shipping package for shipping the container and the form to a test facility.